

# CJCC Newsletter

A quarterly publication to foster communications and promote coordination within the criminal justice system of Northwest Ohio

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## National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

by Lieutenant Mel Stachura, Toledo Police Department



Lieutenant Mel Stachura,  
Toledo Police Department

Over the past 45 years, the Toledo Police Department (TPD) like many other police agencies throughout the U.S. have submitted crime data under the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) system. Though the UCR system is of a simple nature, many within the law enforcement community have long recognized the shortcomings of this antiquated, hierarchical summary based system that blurs the true picture of crime trends and levels.

The NIBRS benefits have been recognized for some time and in 1995 TPD attempted to convert from UCR to NIBRS. This attempt failed due to vastly increased personnel costs. Despite this setback, we remained committed to the NIBRS goal and had to improve our technological infrastructure.

TPD and the NORIS staff worked together with other agencies to completely update the Criminal Reporting System (CRS) records and as a result, CRS began accepting NIBRS related input at the basic level. While still maintaining the UCR reporting format, this was a critical element to enable the NIBRS reporting system to become a reality.

Since 1995, TPD has made progress in the acquisition of technology and computer related equipment. TPD, in cooperation with Lucas County 911 and other County emergency agencies, has installed mobile computers in many of our emergency vehicles and have worked continuously to upgrade and enhance the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) system. With further enhancements,

**"We remain committed  
to the NIBRS goal"**

the MDC equipment will have the capacity of doing far more than a few basic tasks, including input of information and data directly into CRS.

Next, software was needed to get the data from the vehicles to a central repository seamlessly or as close to it as possible. TPD contracted with CJCC/NORIS to provide the

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necessary equipment/software that would interface and act as the vehicle to get the data from the vehicles to the State's central collection point with little additional data entry. Such automation will decrease the amount of time spent reporting incidents, provide the level of details investigators and crime analysis requires, while reaping the benefits of NIBRS.

Much has been accomplished since we started the project and there is still much to do. But, as TPD/NORIS prepares to submit test data to the State by the end of March 2003, the project completion schedule of late summer is within sight. We remain committed to the NIBRS goal and once this project is completed, we hope to assist other area law enforcement agencies obtain the NIBRS benefits and certification.

# Grants Update

by **Ann Bowland, Grants Manager**

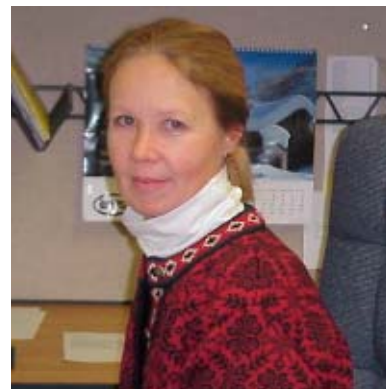
This spring is promising to be a very busy time for the CJCC. Formal awards for Lucas County FY2002, Byrne projects were mailed in early January. If you haven't returned your signed award yet, you should do so as quickly as possible. I'm sure everyone is very relieved to know that Byrne funding for FY2003 is secure.

Application forms and instructions are available for download at the OCJS website: [www.ocjs.oh.gov](http://www.ocjs.oh.gov) Funding will be for a 12-month period beginning January 1, 2004. Applicants in Lucas County must submit their application to the CJCC on or before May 15, 2003. OCJS has been working to streamline their notification and award process for all

federal programs and you should receive information about the status of your application by mid to late July.

Formal awards for Lucas County FY2002 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) projects were mailed in mid March. If you haven't returned your signed award yet, you should do so as quickly as possible. And, if you haven't already heard, application forms and instructions for FY2003 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants will be available by April 28th. You may download application forms and instructions from the OCJS website:

[www.ocjs.oh.gov](http://www.ocjs.oh.gov) Pay close attention to the application instructions and summary of changes as you complete your funding application. Funding will be for a 12-month period



*Ann Bowland, Grants Manager*

beginning January 1, 2004. Applicants in Lucas County must submit their VAWA application to the CJCC on or before June 15, 2003.

Congratulations to the five JJDP Title II projects receiving formal awards for this year and began their program activities in February. CJCC staff is available if you have any questions or need technical assistance.

## Video Technology - Telemedicine

by **Bob Mossing, Planner**

The CJCC completed distribution of the Video Arraignment Project Phase II Report in January 2003. While the report emphasized the use of video technology in the courtroom, the use of telemedicine was also recommended as objective 6.

In Lucas County, inmates are housed at the Lucas County Corrections Center, the Lucas County Work Release facility, the Lucas County Community Treatment Facility, the Juvenile Detention Center and the Youth Treatment Center. In addition, thousands of inmates are sentenced from all courts in Lucas County to the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio. Medical

and psychiatric services are provided at each of these facilities. The services are delivered by facility medical staff, visiting medical staff, or by transporting the inmate to a medical facility in the area. A new tool in correctional institutions is a procedure called telemedicine. With the use of telemedicine, medical services can be made available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through the use of video conferencing equipment, a connection could be established with a service provider such as the Medical College of Ohio. Examinations and diagnoses of medical problems could be conducted from the physician's office while the inmate remains incarcerated. The result is an increase in service delivery and a potential decrease in the cost of existing medical contracts.

In the past, it may not have been cost effective to utilize this service due to the



*Bob Mossing, Planner*

expense involved with buying the necessary equipment and leasing the required high-speed signal lines. However the equipment today is very affordable, and the network needed for high-speed transmission is already available through the Northwest Ohio Regional Information System (NORIS) project of CJCC. The Ohio prison system uses telemedicine. A Lucas County medical unit could connect to any location in the country for medical and/or psychiatric assistance with a capital investment of less than \$12,000.

### Telemedicine Websites:

<http://tie.telemed.org>

<http://www.atmeda.org>

<http://www.drc.state.oh.us/public/press98.htm>

<http://telehealth.net/interviews/beinar.html>

# Changing Technology - Virtual Private Network

by Scott Brahaney, Systems Manager

In the past year NORIS has been exploring the possibility of changing our Network infrastructure. The current NORIS network uses a combination of leased point-to-point dedicated data circuits and installed fiber optic cable in a configuration referred to as a private network.

LEADS and NCIC now allow remote locations

to be connected

using the Internet provided all security requirements are met. In time, NORIS will migrate to the use of Internet based connections using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) technology.

VPNs will allow remote sites a higher level of security and reliability. They are built on top of a publicly accessible infrastructure, such as the

Internet. VPNs employ a combination of data encryption, digital certificates, strong user authentication and access control to provide a very high level of data security. With this technology, the communication cost to a remote agency is constant regardless of physical distance from NORIS. The monthly cost for a VPN connection is

based on the remote location's

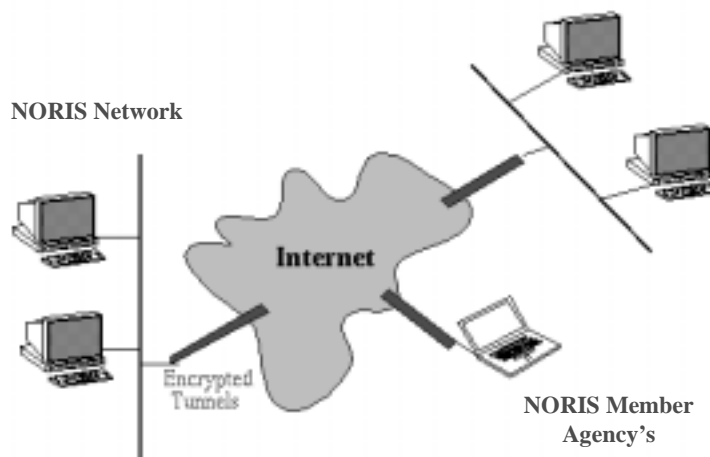
local Internet Service Provider. This Internet connection can be simultaneously used for regular Internet access thus incurring no additional monthly communication cost. The monthly cost of our current data circuits is based on physical mileage from NORIS to the remote location. In the past this has been a dominant factor limiting new remote



Scott Brahaney, Systems Manager

agencies from becoming NORIS members.

In summary, the replacement of our current data communications infrastructure with VPNs will provide current customers with a more secure, reliable, robust and flexible means of data transmission. We believe the many advantages of VPN connectivity will provide the opportunity for additional remote agencies to benefit by becoming NORIS members too.



Connections through the  
Virtual Private Network



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## Executive Director's Desk

*The last three months have been busy for the CJCC staff in planning the relocation of our offices to the downtown area. As of April 1, 2003 CJCC's new mailing address is One Government Center, Suite 1720, Toledo, Ohio 43604. The Data Center relocation will be completed by May 31, 2003.*

*This is our second year for publication of the quarterly "CJCC Newsletter". In this edition, our cover story takes you into the technological strides the Toledo Police Department has taken in conjunction with our NORIS project to provide a comprehensive crime data collection system. Through grants administration, we continue to maximize the means to reach our local projects and potentially future projects on grant application information and deadlines. The planning and research staff did extensive research for the completion of the Video Arraignment Project Phase II Report. NORIS project staff continue to look for innovative and cost effective ways for reliable and efficient informational service delivery to their members as demonstrated in the VPN article.*



*Distribution of our newsletter is growing and currently reaches a vast amount of criminal justice practitioners. We are pleased to announce that the "CJCC Newsletter" will be available in April on line through the CJCC website hosted by the Lucas County Board of Commissioners at [www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us). If you would like to contribute articles of interest or present issues that impact criminal justice efforts in Northwest Ohio, please contact me at 419-213-3800 or e-mail at [cjcc@noris.org](mailto:cjcc@noris.org).*

Barbara Huy  
Interim Executive Director